

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01815 100029Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /047 W
-----013204 110245Z /23
R 091651Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0634

UNCLAS DUBLIN 01815

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN THE CORK EXAMINER JUNE 8, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE CORK EXAMINER
JUNE 8, 1978 UNDER HEADING VACILLATING FOREIGN POLICY:

THE LATEST RUSSIAN ATTACK ON PRESIDENT CARTER,
ACCUSING HIM OF VACILLATING IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY,
MERELY ECHOES CHARGES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE
AGAINST HIM BY HIS OWN COUNTRYMEN, AND IN MANY OTHER
POLICY AREAS BESIDES FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BUT IN NO
OTHER FIELD HAS HIS INDECISION BEEN SO CLEAR.

DURING HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN, HE TALKED OF CUTS IN
DEFENCE SPENDING, LIMITATIONS ON ARMS TRADING AND OF
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE
UNITED STATES DID NEED A DEFENCE CAPABILITY. NOW
DEFENCE SPENDING IS GOING TO BE INCREASED AND HE HAS
FORCED THROUGH CONGRESS A HUGE ARMS DEAL WITH THREE
MUTUALLY HOSTILE COUNTRIES WHICH COULD USE THEM
AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

THE BIGGEST TURN-ABOUT HAS BEEN OVER ZAIRE. U.S.
AIR FORCE TRANSPORTS PLANE AT THE DISPOSAL OF ANY
FORCES WHICH WANT TO HELP PRESIDENT MOBUTU. THERE
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ARE PLANS TO SEND IN AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISERS. THE
PRESIDENT IS COMPLAINING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHECKS
ON HIS POWER TO ACT IN SUCH SITUATIONS AND HAS USED
EVERY IOTA OF EXISTING POWER.

THIS IS HOW AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA BEGAN
AND ALREADY SOME OF HIS CRITICS ARE COMPLAINING THAT

ZAIRE WILL BE ANOTHER VIETNAM.

NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE USSR APPEAR TO
HAVE BROKEN DOWN AND THE WHITE HOUSE HAS REVERTED TO
BIG-POWER POLITICS, PLAYING OFF THE CHINESE AGAINST
THE RUSSIANS. IT IS A DANGEROUS GAME. THE
PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY UTTERANCES HAVE THE AIR
OF AN AMATEUR TRYING HARD TO GIVE THE RIGHT
IMPRESSION TO EVERYONE AT ONCE. KRENE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DUBLIN01815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780243-1099
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780678/aaaacosi.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 41e7c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2421977
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL IN THE CORK EXAMINER JUNE 8, 1978 FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE CORK EXAMINER JUNE 8, 1978 UNDER HEADING VACILLATING FOREIGN POL
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, US, EI, UR, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/41e7c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014